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CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET COAL MINISTRY
IN 1950 AND TASKS FOR 1951

D. G. Onika

Mine constructors contributed considerably to the increased coal output in 1950 by putting into operation a large number of coal mines, open pits, coal-cleaning plants, housing units, and cultural and public buildings. Mine constructors in the Donbass did a particularly fine job. In this area, the Voroshilovgradugol' and Donbassantrestait combines completely finished the mine reconstruction work.

The plan for construction and installation was fulfilled by Glavukrain-uglestroy (Main Administration for Coal Mine Construction in the Ukraine), the Kemerovugol' and Krasnodarskugol' combines, and the Voroshilovgradshakhtovosstanovleniye (Voroshilovgrad Mine Restoration), Aleksandriyavuglerazrestroy (Aleksandriya Open-Pit Construction), Donbassshakhtospetsmontazh (Donbass Mine Special Installation), Zapadshakhtostroy (Mine Construction in the Western Region), and Shakhtospetsstroy (Mine Special Installation) construction trusts.

More than 30 construction administrations and construction projects considerably exceeded the plan. Individual construction projects, including a coal-cleaning plant at the Mine imeni Dzerzhinskiy of Donuglebogashcheniye (Donbass Coal Cleaning), a coal-cleaning plant at the Bryanka Mine No 6/6-bis of the Voroshilovgradugol' Combine, and a workers' settlement near the Mine imeni Stalin of the Artemugol' Combine have organized work on a daily schedule with complete mechanization of all processes and high achievements per worker.

However, despite attained successes, a number of defects still exist. Although capital investments in 1950 exceeded those of 1949, nevertheless the plan for construction and installation and the plan for putting mines and coal-cleaning plants into operation and housing into use was not fulfilled by the ministry in 1950.

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A number of organizations, including Glavdonbass shakhtostroy (Main Administration of Mine Construction in the Donbass), Glavkuzbassshakhtostroy (Main Administration of Mine Construction in the Kuzbass), Glavkaragandashakhtostroy (Main Administration of Mine Construction in Karaganda), Glavtsentroshtakhtostroy (Main Administration of Mine Construction in the Central Region), and the Sverdlovskugol' and Sakhalinugol' combines were operating unsatisfactorily and failing to fulfill the plan for construction and installation. The situation was particularly bad in Stalinzhilstroy (Stalino Housing Construction), Stalinshakhtostroy (Stalino Mine Construction), Artemshakhtovosstanovleniye (Artem Mine Restoration), Estonslantsestroy (Estonian Shale Mine Construction), Sverdlovskuglestroy (Sverdlovsk Coal Mine Construction), Kizelshakhtostroy (Kizel Mine Construction), Krasnoyarskshakhtostroy (Krasnoyarsk Mine Construction), Dorogobuzhshakhtostroy (Dorogobuzh Mine Construction) and Nelidovshakhtostroy (Nelidovo Mine Construction) trusts.

One of the chief reasons for poor work was the lack of a technical plan for utilizing the allotted capital in some construction projects and even in individual trusts. When construction enterprises receive year plans, they should draw up technical plans for utilizing the capital set aside for them and for completing the physical volume of work. To achieve this, plans for work organization of every project under construction are necessary.

Poor preparation for the winter of 1949-1950 by projects under construction was in a large measure responsible for the failure to complete the plan. At the beginning of winter, a number of construction administrations lacked cover and heating facilities for projects under construction; consequently, work could not be carried on in very cold weather since the concrete and other materials froze. Construction workers were not even provided with living quarters at some new projects and as a result only preliminary work was carried on there during the first quarter of 1950. Construction only started to make headway in April-May 1950.

In 1950, individual projects were poorly provided with construction materials. For example, the plan for brick production was not fulfilled by the Glavkuzbassshakhtostroy, Glavkaragandashakhtostroy, Donbassantretsit, Kemero-vugol', and Molotovugol' combines. The plan for slag-block production was not completed by Glavdonbassshakhtostroy and Glavtsentroshtakhtostroy.

Mining machinery was poorly utilized in mine construction. For example, the BCH-1 pneumatic loading machine was used only 73.4 percent of the norm in mine-construction main administrations; rock- and coal-loading machines were used only 59.4 percent of the norm. The BCH-1 pneumatic loading machine was used very inefficiently by Glavkuzbassshakhtostroy, and other types of loading machines were not being utilized to capacity by Glavkaragandashakhtostroy and Glavdonbassshakhtostroy.

In 1950, good results were achieved in the construction of a number of coal-cleaning plants and workers' settlements. The workers' settlements, constructed by the continuous method, comprised 243,000 square meters.

Speedy construction of coal-cleaning plants in the Donbass showed that a sharp improvement in the utilization of machines and mechanical devices can be achieved when work is properly organized. In the construction of the Dzerzhinskiy and Bryansk coal-cleaning plants, each worker performed 260 rubles' worth of work a day and the number of secondary workers was cut 30 percent. The employment of tower cranes and central concrete mixture installations lowered labor in the transport of one cubic meter of concrete from 0.93 to 0.53 man per hour.

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In 1950, the quality of work in the construction of mines, open pits, coal-cleaning plants, and workers' settlements showed an improvement over previous years. However, in some cases, the quality of the finished work was poor. For example, in the construction of Mine No 107 of Glavkaragandashakhtostroy, the concrete was incorrectly laid at the mouth of the shaft.

Inspection revealed that work was poorly organized at a number of mines under construction including the following: Mine imeni Shvernik, Grigor'yevka Mine No 12/13 of Stalinshakhtovosstanovleniye (Stalino Mine Restoration) Trust; Schmidt Mine, Ganzovskaya Mine No 1, and Mine No 7/8 imeni Kalinin of the Stalinshakhtostroy Trust of the Stalinshakhtostroy Combine; Roven'kovskaya Mine No 1/2 and Lotikovo Mine of the Voroshilovgradshakhtostroy Trust; Karl Mine No 7/8 and Mine No 160 of the Krasnoluchshakhtostroy (Krasnyy Luch Mine Construction) Trust of the Voroshilovgradshakhtostroy (Voroshilovgrad Mine Construction) Combine; Artem Glubokiy Mine and Gukovskaya Mine No 1 of the Rostovshakhtostroy (Rostov Mine Construction) Trust.

Labor turnover was high, particularly in Glavdonbasseshakhtostroy, Gruzshakhtostroy (Georgian Mine Construction), and in the Rostovagol' Combine.

Despite the fact that labor productivity in 1950 was 8.4 percent higher than in 1949, the ministry as a whole did not fulfill the plan for labor productivity. The situation was especially bad in Glavkuzbasseshakhtostroy, Glavvostokuglestroy (Main Administration of Coal-Mine Construction in the Eastern Region), and Glavkaragandashakhtostroy.

The following tasks confront mine constructors for 1951:

1. Utilization of 18.6 percent more capital investment and completion of 22.1 percent more construction and installation than in 1950.
2. Putting into operation mines and open pits with a total capacity 38 percent higher than in 1950 and coal-cleaning and briquetting plants with a capacity 184 percent higher than in 1950.
3. Putting into use 8.1 percent more housing than in 1950.
4. Completion of the construction of 38.6 percent more social and cultural buildings than in 1950.
5. Putting into operation 36 brick plants with a capacity of 469 million bricks per year, four slag-block plants with a capacity of 31 million blocks per year, and 21 enterprises for the production of local construction materials.
6. Increasing the output of the construction and installation personnel 13.6 percent over 1950.
7. Constructing 524 kilometers of highways and 223 kilometers of water pipeline system.
8. Lowering production costs an additional 3 percent.

In 1951, construction organizations are to build, by high-speed methods, 12 mines, 4 briquetting plants, 2 coal-cleaning plants, 4 TETs, 123 kilometers of automobile roads, and 300,000 square meters of housing.

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The increase in mechanization over 1950 is to be as follows: rock loading in vertical shafts, 44 percent; coal and rock loading in horizontal and sloping workings, 42 percent; earthwork, 4 percent; loading and unloading operations, 26 percent; assembly of steel structures, 24 percent; preparation of cement, 6 percent; preparation of mortar, 2 percent; and plastering operations, 62 percent.

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